THE ETERNALS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

WAR IN THE CITY OF TOADS!

KRONA AND THENA-- DEVIANT AND ETERNALS-- SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST THE REJECTS!!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE ETERNALS!™

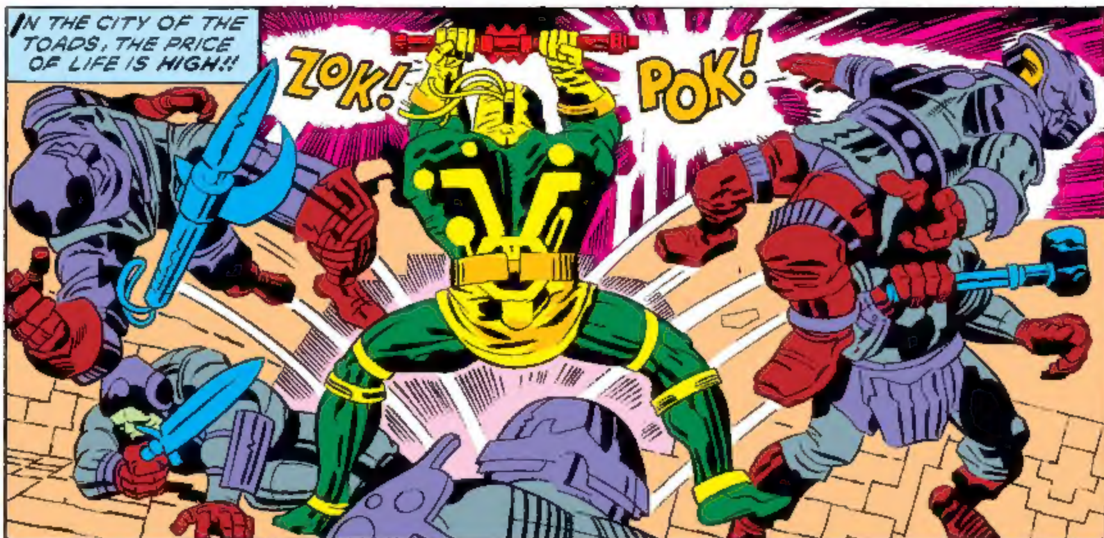
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY * INKED & LETTERED BY MIKE ROYER * COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN * APPRECIATED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

SPACE GODS! YOU'LL SEE THEM, IF YOU **KEEP READING** THIS MAGAZINE!!

ETERNALS! YOU'LL SEE **THEM** IN EVERY ISSUE!

DEVIANTS! READ ON, AND LEARN **MORE** ABOUT THEM!! THEY WERE HERE **BEFORE** THE WHEEL! THEY WERE HERE **BEFORE** THE FLOOD! THEY ARE WITH US, EVEN AS WE AMUSE OURSELVES WITH OLD HORROR MOVIES! WELL... **COME AND SEE AN OLDER HORROR!** COME AND SEE--




IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE PRICE OF LIFE IS HIGH!!
ZOK!
POK!


IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE FIGHT FOR LIFE IS A DAILY ROUTINE!
UGHH-H!
WHAM!


IN THE CITY OF THE TOADS, THE MASK OF CRUELTY IS MORE VALUED THAN THE LIVING HEART!!
CEASE FIGHTING! COME FORTH-- REJECT!!
THIS ONE STILL LIVES--!
DROP HIM!
YOU HEARD THE ORDER!


WOE TO HIM WHO LIVES IN THIS CITY! FOR HERE, PEACE IS A SHADOW -- AND SHAME, THE DAILY BREAD.
DO AS YOU'RE TOLD --OR TASTE THE ELECTRIC WHIP!
ZZPPP!
MOVE!
KRAK!


WHERE IS THE DREAM -- THE BRIGHT STAR OF HOPE? HERE IT LIES STILLBORN--ENTOMBED FOREVER--DEAD BEFORE ITS TIME.
THE REJECT IS DEFIANT, GREAT TODE!! SHOW HIM NO MERCY!!
SILENCE! THE DECISION IS MINE TO MAKE!
SO SHALL IT BE FOR ALL ETERNITY, MOST EXALTED OF DEVIANTS!!


WHAT IS A REJECT? IS IT NOT THAT WHICH IS DESPISED OR CAST OUT BY ITS BROTHERS? OR CAN IT BE A FEAR--A VISION OF DOOM--A FINGER POINTING AT THE FLAWS OF THE PERFECT SOCIETY...
ON YOUR KNEES, REJECT!
BOW TO THE PRESENCE OF THE ALL-HIGHEST!
REMOVE HIS MASK!


HE IS TRULY UGLY, SIRE! THE MERE SIGHT OF HIM MAY UPSET YOU!
YOU MAY NOT! IT IS MY PERCEPTIONS THAT ARE UNEQUALED IN THIS LAND!
BUT HE IS UNEQUALED IN COMBAT! A BORN KILLER, IF I MAY SAY SO!


AS THE MASK IS REMOVED, GREAT TODE'S GATHERED COURTIERS GASP AT WHAT IS REVEALED!!
SHOCKING! HE IS REPELLENT TO BEHOLD!
AND YET, HE IS A DEVIANT --BORN OF OUR SPECIES AND ALLOWED TO SURVIVE!
GREAT TODE SHALL DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!
CONDEMN HIM, SIRE! CONDEMN THE REJECT!


THE MASK IS LIFTED, SIRE. THIS CURSED CREATURE AWAITS YOUR DECISION!
HE DOES WELL TO HIDE HIS FACE!
RAISE YOUR HEAD, REJECT!

GREAT TODE SPEAKS TO YOU!! RAISE YOUR HEAD -- OR RISK DESTRUCTION!!

SEE FOR YOURSELF, SIRE! THAT FACE IS YET ANOTHER REMINDER OF THE SPECTRE THAT HAUNTS OUR SPECIES!

ARE WE NEVER TO PREVENT OUR UNSTABLE ATOMS FROM RUNNING AMUCK? EACH PASSING DAY CONTINUES TO BRING NEW HORRORS SUCH AS THIS ONE AMONG US!

H-HE COULD EASILY BE TAKEN FOR AN ETERNAL -- OR, AT BEST, A FOUL HUMAN!

IN THE CITY OF TOADS, NO NAME BUT "REJECT" CAN BE FOUND FOR HIM. HIS FACE IS HIS CRIME-- AND TO DISGUISE THIS CRIME, HE EXCELS IN WHAT IS MOST ADMIRED BY HIS FELLOW DEVIANTS: A SUPERIOR CUNNING AND THE ABILITY TO DESTROY HIS ENEMIES!!

BE STILL!! IF THIS DEVIANT IS UNWORTHY TO LIVE, IT CAN ONLY BE PROVEN IN COMBAT! THEREFORE, WE MUST FIND AN OPPONENT WHO CAN DEFEAT HIM!! THIS IS THE DECREE OF TODE!!

AT THAT MOMENT, ANOTHER DEVIANT IS A GUEST AMONG THE HUMANS IN NEW YORK CITY. KRO, THE GENERAL, RELIVES THE PAST WITH AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE...

IN A BYGONE AGE WE WERE MORE THAN MERE FRIENDS, THENA! WE LEARNED THAT YOU, AN ETERNAL, AND I, A DEVIANT, COULD FIND COMMON GROUND FOR--

IT WAS NOT TO BE, KRO!! AT BEST, WE CAN BE NOTHING MORE THAN FRIENDS!

NOT SO! IN TRUTH, I AM A DEVIANT AND THE INHERITOR OF TRAITS YOU FEAR AND HATE! YET, YOU KNOW ME TO BE NOBLE, WISE, AND BRAVE --ALL QUALITIES YOU ENCOURAGE!

THE GULF BETWEEN US IS TOO WIDE, KRO!! TOO WIDE!

THE PASSING CENTURIES HAVE NARROWED THE GAP! LET ME PROVE IT, THENA!

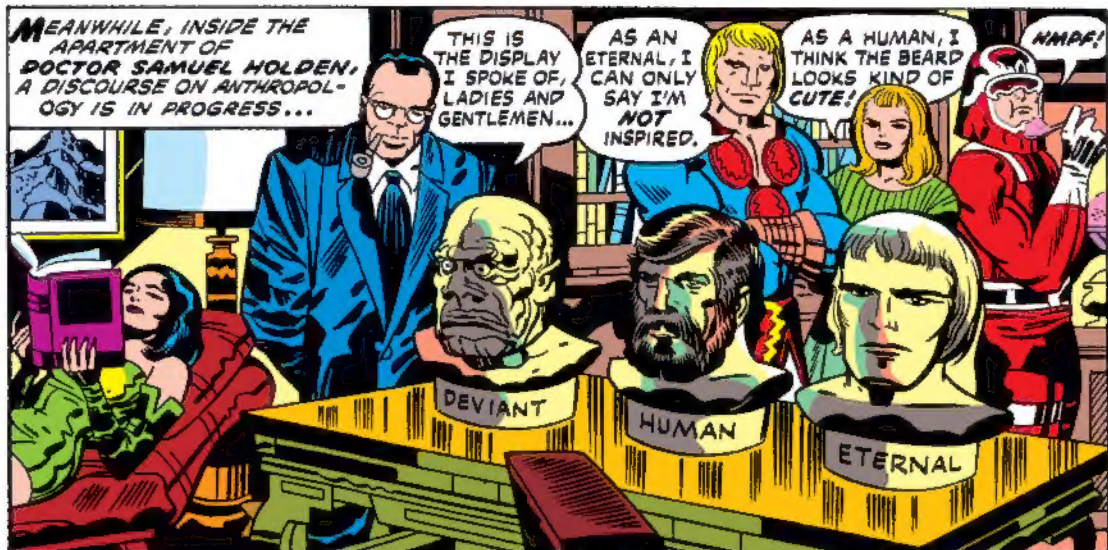
YOU'RE MAD, KRO! WE ARE WHAT WE ARE! WHY WON'T YOU ACCEPT IT!?

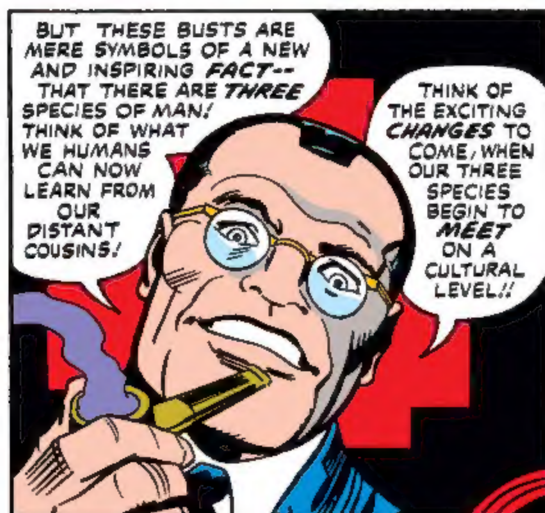
BECAUSE I DARE TO HOPE --AND I ASK THE SAME OF YOU!! BELIEVE WITH ME, THENA--FOLLOW ME AND WITNESS A MIRACLE!

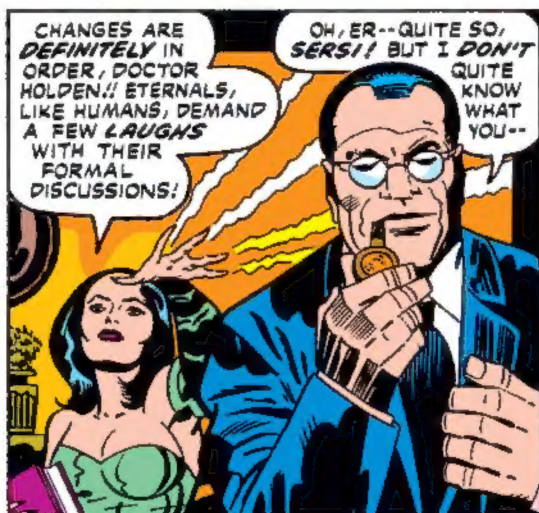
ONCE BEFORE I WENT BENEATH THE WATERS WITH YOU. MYTHOLOGY RECORDS IT AS AN UNHAPPY STORY!

I'VE DALLIED TOO LONG AMONG THE HUMANS. AN AIR SHUTTLE IS DUE TO RETURN ME TO MY VESSEL. COME WITH ME, THENA!! YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

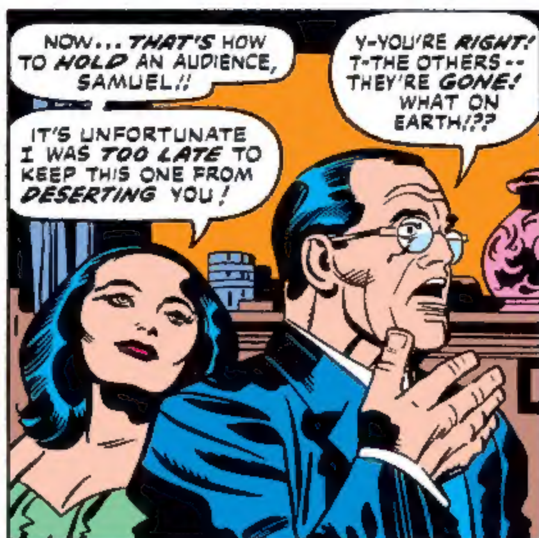
I-I--


MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE APARTMENT OF DOCTOR SAMUEL HOLDEN, A DISCOURSE ON ANTHROPOLOGY IS IN PROGRESS...
THIS IS THE DISPLAY I SPOKE OF, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
AS AN ETERNAL, I CAN ONLY SAY I'M NOT INSPIRED.
AS A HUMAN, I THINK THE BEARD LOOKS KIND OF CUTE!
HMPF!
DEVIANT
HUMAN
ETERNAL


BUT THESE BUSTS ARE MERE SYMBOLS OF A NEW AND INSPIRING FACT-- THAT THERE ARE THREE SPECIES OF MAN! THINK OF WHAT WE HUMANS CAN NOW LEARN FROM OUR DISTANT COUSINS!
THINK OF THE EXCITING CHANGES TO COME, WHEN OUR THREE SPECIES BEGIN TO MEET ON A CULTURAL LEVEL!!


CHANGES ARE DEFINITELY IN ORDER, DOCTOR HOLDEN!! ETERNALS, LIKE HUMANS, DEMAND A FEW LAUGHS WITH THEIR FORMAL DISCUSSIONS!
OH, ER--QUITE SO, SERSI! BUT I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT YOU--


SERSI THE ETERNAL COMPLETES WITH A GESTURE THE KIND OF WHIMSY WHICH HAS EARNED HER A PLACE IN MYTHOLOGY...
--MY STARS!
POP!
DEVIANT
HUMAN
ETERNAL

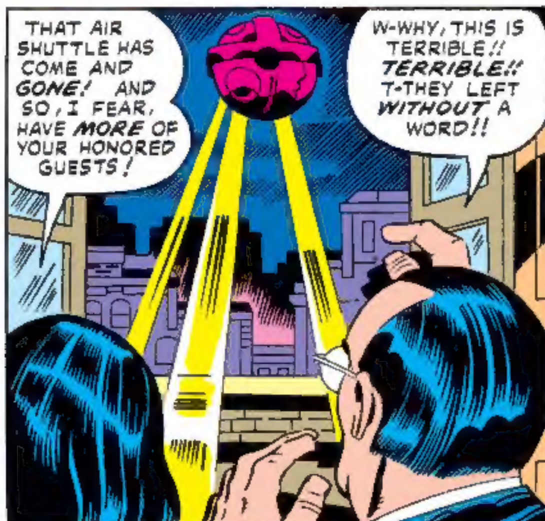

NOW... THAT'S HOW TO HOLD AN AUDIENCE, SAMUEL!!
IT'S UNFORTUNATE I WAS TOO LATE TO KEEP THIS ONE FROM DESERTING YOU!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! T-THE OTHERS-- THEY'RE GONE! WHAT ON EARTH!??



THAT ACCOUNTS FOR IKARIS, MAKKARI, AND MARGO DAMIAN! I WONDER ABOUT THE TWO ON THE TERRACE.
I-I HAD NO IDEA THAT EVERY-ONE WAS GROWING BORED!



PERHAPS I CAN DO BETTER WITH KRO AND THENA!
I-I'LL INVITE THEM IN FROM THE TERRACE, AND--
YOU'RE LATE AGAIN, SAMUEL.



THAT AIR SHUTTLE HAS COME AND GONE! AND SO, I FEAR, HAVE MORE OF YOUR HONORED GUESTS!
W-WHY, THIS IS TERRIBLE!! TERRIBLE!! T-THEY LEFT WITHOUT A WORD!!



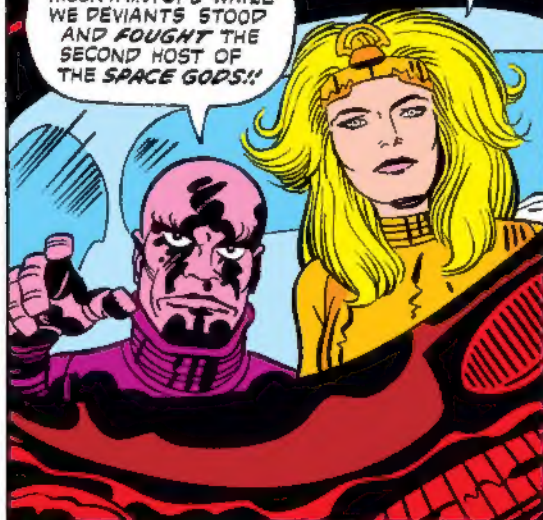
I-I DON'T SUPPOSE ALL THIS SAYS MUCH FOR MY TALENT AS A HOST. I-I'VE SIMPLY RUINED OUR EVENING!
NOT OUR EVENING! I FIND YOU FASCINATING, DOCTOR SAM HOLDEN! AND I AIM TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!



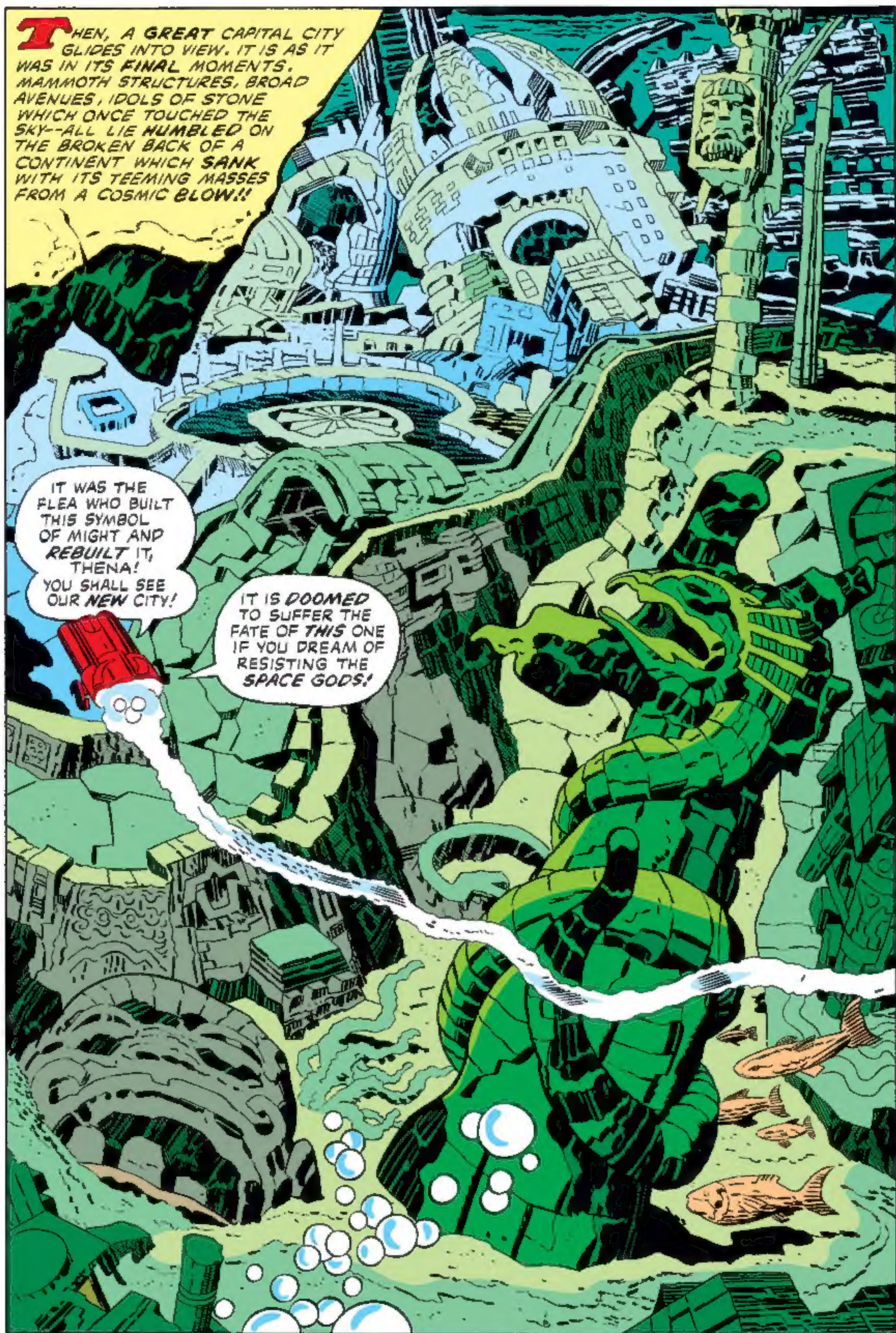
S-SERSI! W-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE FURNITURE'S GONE! A-AND H-HOW DID THEY GET IN HERE!?
I MERELY RESHUFFLED SOME ATOMS IN A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER.
SHALL WE DANCE ??


SOON AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, KRO AND THENA ARE TAKEN TO AN UNDERSEA WAR-CRAFT WHICH SLIPS UNNOTICED INTO THE DEEPS AT GREAT SPEED...
FOR ALL THEIR PROGRESS, THENA, THE HUMANS ARE NO MATCH FOR DEVIANTS IN THIS ELEMENT.
THE CENTURIES HAVE MADE THIS YOUR HOME! THE DEVIANTS HAVE BEEN WELL HIDDEN, KRO.


MILES OF TRAVEL REVEAL THE FIRST TRACES OF THE DEVIANTS' LOST GRANDEUR: A GIANT CARVED FACE, HALF-BURIED IN THE OCEAN FLOOR, PEERS WITH SIGHTLESS EYES THAT DATE FROM A TIME BEFORE THE GREAT FLOOD.


THE RUINS BECOME MORE PLENTIFUL. THEY'RE LIKE SCATTERED BONES, LEADING TO THE SKELETON OF SOME TITANIC ANIMAL.
THE PAST STILL LIVES HERE, THENA! LOOK UPON THE POWER OF A WORLD ONCE SHAKEN AND CRUSHED BY A MIGHTY FORCE!!
YOU ETERNALS KEPT TO YOUR MOUNTAINTOPS WHILE WE DEVIANTS STOOD AND FOUGHT THE SECOND HOST OF THE SPACE GODS!!
THAT'S WHY WE ARE STILL ON OUR MOUNTAINTOPS, NOW THAT THE FOURTH HOST HAS ARRIVED...


AT THIS MOMENT, THE DEVIANT CRAFT ENTERS A FORMIDABLE BARRIER, ERECTED AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK...
THEY'LL FIND US READY THIS TIME! OUR NEW WEAPON-SYSTEMS ARE INVINCIBLE!!
HAH! IS IT NOT ALWAYS THE FLEA WHO MOCKS THE ELEPHANT!


THEN, A GREAT CAPITAL CITY GLIDES INTO VIEW. IT IS AS IT WAS IN ITS FINAL MOMENTS. MAMMOTH STRUCTURES, BROAD AVENUES, IDOLS OF STONE WHICH ONCE TOUCHED THE SKY--ALL LIE HUMBLED ON THE BROKEN BACK OF A CONTINENT WHICH SANK WITH ITS TEEMING MASSES FROM A COSMIC BLOW!!
IT WAS THE FLEA WHO BUILT THIS SYMBOL OF MIGHT AND REBUILT IT, THENA! YOU SHALL SEE OUR NEW CITY!
IT IS DOOMED TO SUFFER THE FATE OF THIS ONE IF YOU DREAM OF RESISTING THE SPACE GODS!

THE DEVIANT CRAFT CONTINUES ON TOWARD A MONSTER SEA-WALL, WHERE GIANT LOCKS OPEN TO RECEIVE IT...
WE DREAM OF THAT AND **MORE**, THENA-- THAT IS WHY I **BROUGHT** YOU HERE!
IT IS **MADNESS** --BUT LEAD ON, KRO!

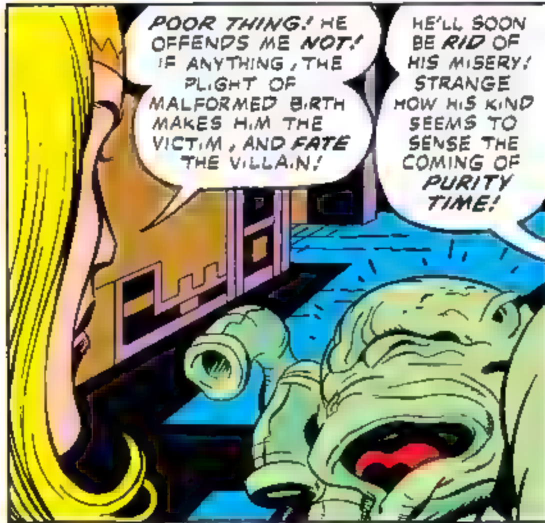
AFTER ENTERING THE LOCKS, THERE IS A STRONG UPWARD PULL -- THEN THE CRAFT SURFACES IN THE MAIN CANAL OF THE NEW LEMURIA ...
WE HAVE **ARRIVED!** DOCK HER AT THE **ROYAL** PIER!

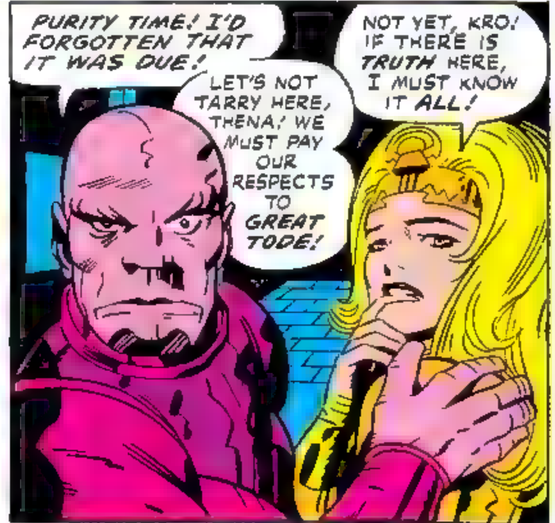
KRO AND THENA ARE GIVEN A **CEREMONIAL** GREETING AS THEY WALK ASHORE...
HAIL, KRO! HAIL, DAUGHTER OF ZURAS!
LEMURIA OPENS WIDE ITS DOORS TO AN HONORED GUEST!!
WE SEEM TO BE AN **ILL-KEPT** SECRET, KRO!
I MADE CERTAIN THEY KNEW OF YOUR VISIT-- AND AFFORDED YOU A **PROPER** WELCOME!

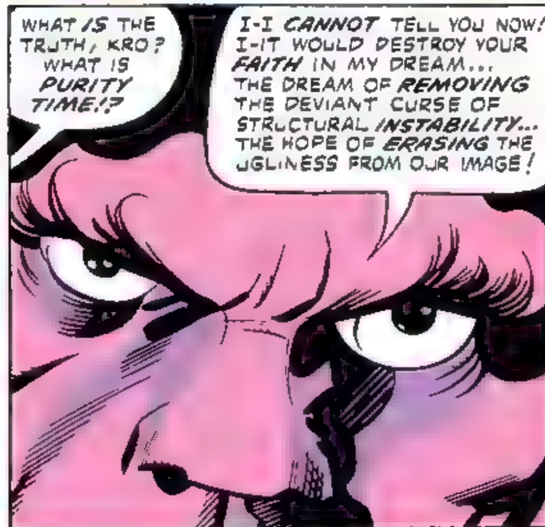
THE ARRIVALS PROCEED THROUGH A FLANKING HONOR GUARD TOWARD THE CITY'S CENTER...
NO ETERNAL EVER FOUND SUCH HOSPITALITY AMONG THE DEVIANTS!
COME, THERE IS **MORE** TO SEE!

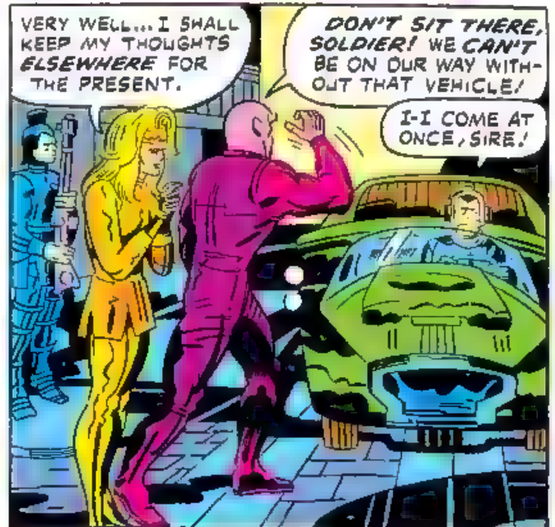
THERE IS A SUDDEN BLUR OF MOVEMENT! A CLAMMY, MISSHAPEN ARM THRUSTS ITSELF AT THENA AND GRASPS HER WITH UNCANNY STRENGTH...
B-B-BRUH-BURUBARR-
BY THE FIRE BOLTS OF ZURAS! WHA-- !!?


THEN...
FOOL! DID YOU LET THAT REJECT GET OUT OF HAND?
I-I COULDN'T HELP IT! HE TORE FREE!
AWAY WITH YOU BOTH!!
HURRY! LEST THIS CREATURE'S SIGHT OFFEND OUR ROYAL VISITOR!

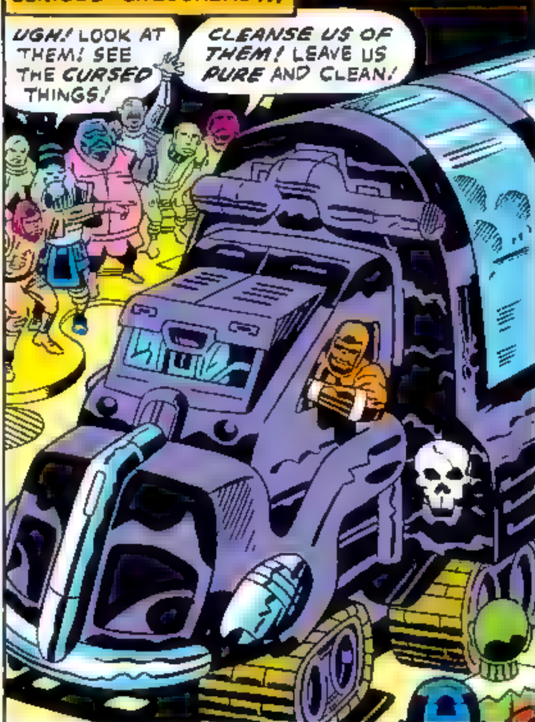

POOR THING! HE OFFENDS ME NOT! IF ANYTHING, THE PLIGHT OF MALFORMED BIRTH MAKES HIM THE VICTIM, AND FATE THE VILLAIN!
HE'LL SOON BE RID OF HIS MISERY! STRANGE HOW HIS KIND SEEMS TO SENSE THE COMING OF PURITY TIME!


PURITY TIME! I'D FORGOTTEN THAT IT WAS DUE!
LET'S NOT TARRY HERE, THENA! WE MUST PAY OUR RESPECTS TO GREAT TODE!
NOT YET, KRO! IF THERE IS TRUTH HERE, I MUST KNOW IT ALL!


WHAT IS THE TRUTH, KRO? WHAT IS PURITY TIME!?
I-I CANNOT TELL YOU NOW! I-IT WOULD DESTROY YOUR FAITH IN MY DREAM... THE DREAM OF REMOVING THE DEVIANT CURSE OF STRUCTURAL INSTABILITY... THE HOPE OF ERASING THE UGLINESS FROM OUR IMAGE!

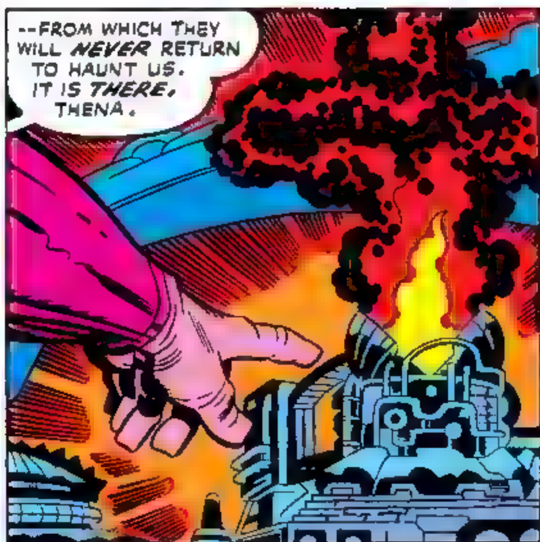

VERY WELL... I SHALL KEEP MY THOUGHTS ELSEWHERE FOR THE PRESENT.
DON'T SIT THERE, SOLDIER! WE CAN'T BE ON OUR WAY WITH-OUT THAT VEHICLE!
I-I COME AT ONCE, SIRE!

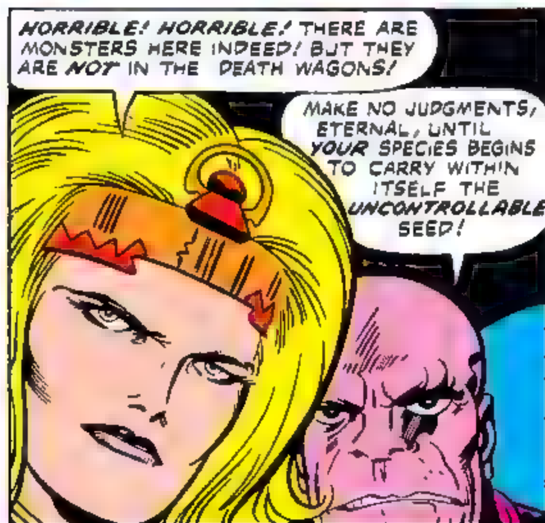




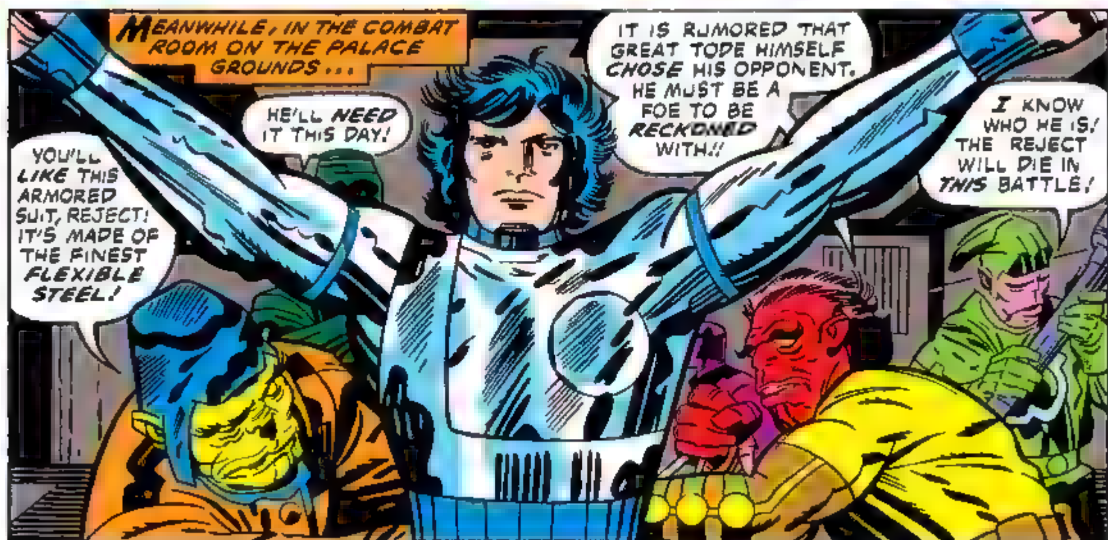
THERE IS NO HIDING FROM WHAT IS VISIBLE IN THE DEATH WAGONS. EACH GROTESQUE FORM IS A LIVING REMINDER OF THE THREAT WITHIN EVERY DEVIANT'S BODY--UNSTABLE ATOMS, RUNNING WILD IN FRIGHTENING PATTERNS, PRODUCING FRIGHTENING OFF-SPRING! THE SOLUTION IS PURITY TIME--AN INFAMOUS RITUAL WHICH NEVER ENDS!


THIS IS THE LAST WE SHALL SEE OF THEM! GOOD RIDDANCE, I SAY!
WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THEM, KRO? WHERE ARE THEY TAKING THEM ?
TO THE PLACE--


--FROM WHICH THEY WILL NEVER RETURN TO HAUNT US. IT IS THERE, THENA.

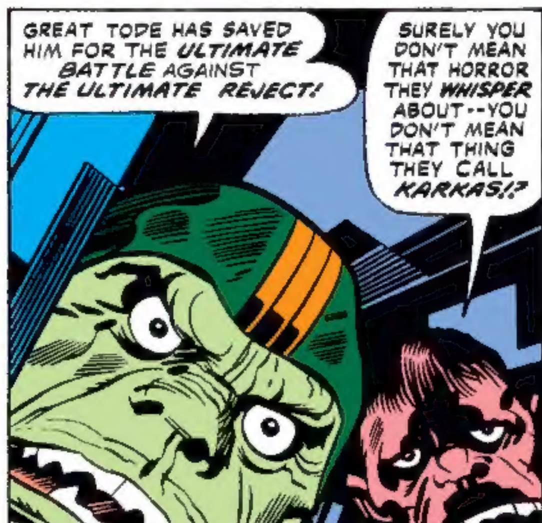
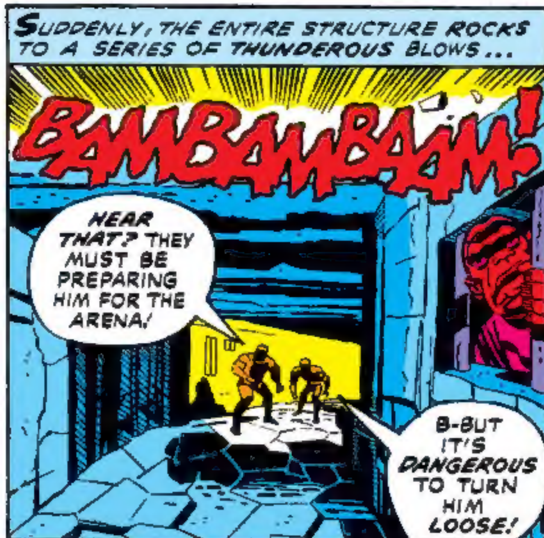

HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE! THERE ARE MONSTERS HERE INDEED! BUT THEY ARE NOT IN THE DEATH WAGONS!
MAKE NO JUDGMENTS, ETERNAL, UNTIL YOUR SPECIES BEGINS TO CARRY WITHIN ITSELF THE UNCONTROLLABLE SEED!


THE MOB THINS OUT. COME, THENA. COME AND SEE THE ONE REJECT WHO OFFERS THE DEVIANTS A HOPE OF STABILITY!
I'VE ALREADY SEEN TOO MUCH, KRO! THOUGH I JOIN YOU, WHATEVER WAS BE-TWEEN US HAS DIED WITH THOSE HELPLESS CREATURES!!

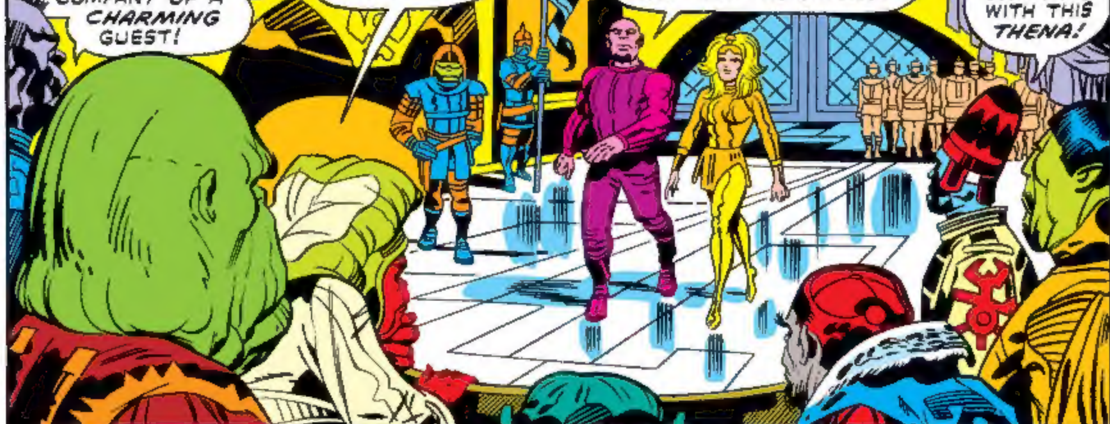

MEANWHILE, IN THE COMBAT ROOM ON THE PALACE GROUNDS...
YOU'LL LIKE THIS ARMORED SUIT, REJECT! IT'S MADE OF THE FINEST FLEXIBLE STEEL!
HE'LL NEED IT THIS DAY!
IT IS RUMORED THAT GREAT TODE HIMSELF CHOSE HIS OPPONENT. HE MUST BE A FOE TO BE RECKONED WITH!!
I KNOW WHO HE IS! THE REJECT WILL DIE IN THIS BATTLE!

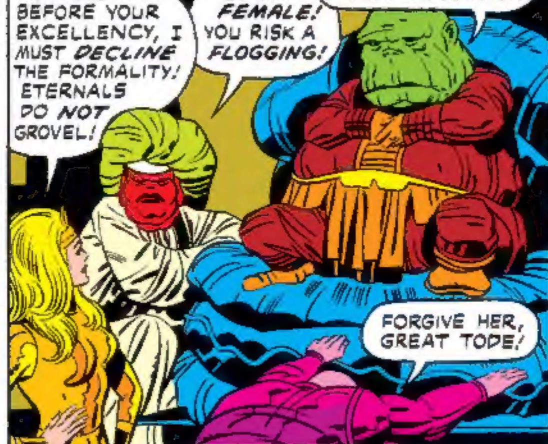

THE MERE MENTION OF DEFEAT DRIVES THE REJECT INTO A FRENZY...
STOP HIM!!
LOOK OUT! THE DOG'S SNATCHED A WEAPON!!
GET MORE HELP!! HE'LL KILL US, I TELL YOU!

POW! POW!
WITH SAVAGE FURY, THE REJECT SCATTERS HIS TRAINERS...
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! HE'S GONE MAD!!

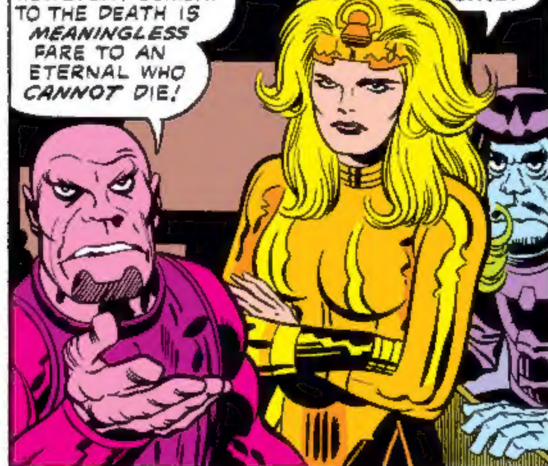
UNGRATEFUL MONSTER! THIS IS WHAT WE GET IN RETURN FOR SHOWERING HIM WITH KINDNESS!
KILLERS DON'T APPRECIATE FAIR TREATMENT!! BUT NEVER FEAR-- HE'LL SOON MEET HIS MATCH!!

GREAT TODE HAS SAVED HIM FOR THE ULTIMATE BATTLE AGAINST THE ULTIMATE REJECT!
SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN THAT HORROR THEY WHISPER ABOUT--YOU DON'T MEAN THAT THING THEY CALL KARKAS!?

SUDDENLY, THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE ROCKS TO A SERIES OF THUNDEROUS BLOWS...
BAMBAMBAM!
HEAR THAT? THEY MUST BE PREPARING HIM FOR THE ARENA!
B-BUT IT'S DANGEROUS TO TURN HIM LOOSE!

WAM!
FOOLS! FOOLS! THAT MAN-EATER WILL KILL EVERYONE IN SIGHT!


MEANWHILE, AT THE COURT OF GREAT TODE...
OUR FAVORED GENERAL IS BACK -- AND IN THE COMPANY OF A CHARMING GUEST!
THE DAUGHTER OF ZURAS, NO LESS!
HAIL TO GREAT TODE AND THE RULING FAMILY! I BRING AN ETERNAL -- IN A NEW EFFORT AT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO SPECIES.
HAH! HE SEEKS ONLY TO RENEW HIS DALLYING WITH THIS THENA!

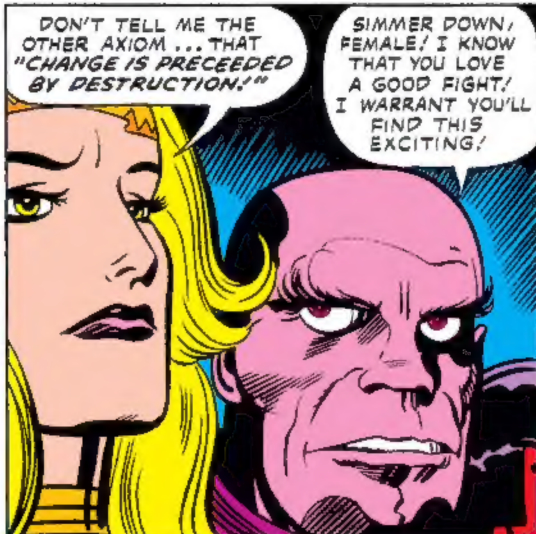

IF YOU EXPECT ME TO GROVEL AS DOES KRO BEFORE YOUR EXCELLENCY, I MUST DECLINE THE FORMALITY! ETERNALS DO NOT GROVEL!
GROSS FEMALE! YOU RISK A FLOGGING!
ETERNALS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR POOR DIPLOMACY!
FORGIVE HER, GREAT TODE!


GRANTED, KRO.
WE ARE IN A FESTIVE MOOD THIS DAY -- OUR FAVORITE SPECTATOR SPORT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! YOU TWO ARE INVITED TO WITNESS A SPECTACULAR BATTLE!


YOUR WISH IS OUR JOY, SIRE! HOWEVER, COMBAT TO THE DEATH IS MEANINGLESS FARE TO AN ETERNAL WHO CANNOT DIE!
IT'S NOT ONLY MEANINGLESS -- IT'S SENSELESS, SIRE!

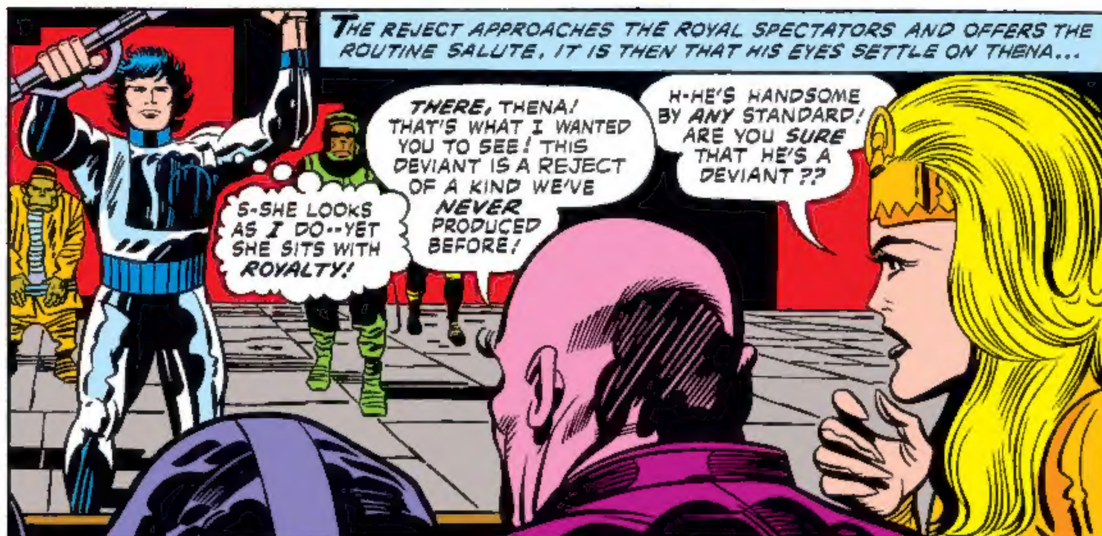

INDEED!! WELL, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT KILLING SERVES A PRACTICAL PURPOSE HERE!! IT RIDS US OF THE UNWANTED!
YET, THEY DO NOT DIE WITHOUT VALOR! THEY PERISH AS DO HEROES IN OUR OWN FIGHTING FORCES!


HAIL TO THE HEROES. SIT DOWN, KRO. I'LL MUDDLE THROUGH THIS MESS WITHOUT GAGGING.
PATIENCE, THENA. WE SEEK TO CHANGE A MILLENIUM--


DON'T TELL ME THE OTHER AXIOM ... THAT "CHANGE IS PRECEEDED BY DESTRUCTION!"
SIMMER DOWN, FEMALE! I KNOW THAT YOU LOVE A GOOD FIGHT! I WARRANT YOU'LL FIND THIS EXCITING!


A HUSH FALLS OVER GREAT TODE'S COURT AS AN OVERSEER'S VOICE BOOMS LOUDLY FROM A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM...
ATTENTION, PLEASE! THE TIME HAS COME TO HONOR GREAT TODE AND HIS ROYAL FAMILY WITH THE FINEST COMBAT THIS KINGDOM CAN PROVIDE!


BRING FORTH THE REJECT! LET HIM STAND BEFORE HIS BETTERS AND AWAIT THEIR APPROVAL.
GET ON WITH IT! DROP THE FORMALITIES AND BRING IN THE OTHER!


THE REJECT APPROACHES THE ROYAL SPECTATORS AND OFFERS THE ROUTINE SALUTE. IT IS THEN THAT HIS EYES SETTLE ON THENA...
S-SHE LOOKS AS I DO--YET SHE SITS WITH ROYALTY!
THERE, THENA! THAT'S WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE! THIS DEVIANT IS A REJECT OF A KIND WE'VE NEVER PRODUCED BEFORE!
H-HE'S HANDSOME BY ANY STANDARD! ARE YOU SURE THAT HE'S A DEVIANT ??

BEFORE KRO CAN ANSWER, SOMETHING SMASHES ITS WAY INTO THE ARENA!! IT IS HUGE! IT IS MONSTROUS!! IT IS

KARKAS !!!

RROARRR!

HOLD HIM IN CHECK!

BACK! BACK-- YOU MAD MUTATE !!

BRING UP MORE CONTROL WEAPONS!

ALTHOUGH ALL THE ROYAL SPECTATORS ARE PROTECTED BY A HIDDEN ELECTRIC BARRIER, THEY ARE HIGHLY UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MASSIVE MUTATE!! ONLY THENA RISES IN CONCERN FOR THE REJECT'S FATE...

STOP THE COMBAT! THE BOY WILL BE SLAUGHTERED BY THAT THING!

HAHAHAH!! IGNORE HER! BEGIN THE BATTLE!

FOOLS! FOOLS! YOU'LL DESTROY THE ONE OBJECT OF VALUE IN THIS UGLY DOMAIN!!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, THENA! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW CAN-NOT BE STOPPED!

WRONG, KRO!! IT CAN BE STOPPED!!!

BUT IT WILL TAKE A TITANIC SPACE GOD TO HALT...

THE KILLING MACHINE